

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 OMB-01

AID-20 DRC-01 /111 W

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R 221115Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4272

INFO CJCS

SECDEF

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 14287

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, CB

SUBJECT: STATUS OF CONSCRIPTION/RECRUITMENT PROGRAM

1. THE CONSCRIPTION/RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN, CONTINUING AT ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL IT HAS ASSUMED FOR THE PAST WEEK, PRODUCED AN AVERAGE OF 98 NEW RECRUITS PER DAY IN THE PHNOM PENH AREA DURING THE LAST FOUR DAYS. BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON DECEMBER 21 THE FANK RECEPTION CENTER HAD RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 11,954 RECRUITS (10,620 VOLUNTEERS AND 1334 CONSCRIPTS).

2. EMBASSY OFFICERS VISITING PURSAT AND KOMPONG CHHNANG LEARNED THAT KG. CHHNANG HAS NO CONSCRIPTION PROGRAM BUT THAT A RECENTLY INSTITUTED RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN SENT 17 MEN TO SISOPHON TRAINING CENTER A FEW DAYS PREVIOUSLY. PURSAT SENT 400 CHAM (A MOSLEM ETHNIC MINORITY) VOLUNTEERS TO SISOPHON TRAINING CENTER ON DECEMBER 10. THE PROVINCE FIRST DEPUTY GOVERNOR SAID ONLY 3,000 MEN APPEAR ON REGIS-
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TRATION LISTS OF 18-35 RPT 35 YEAR OLD MEN IN THE 200,000

STRONG PROVINCE. AFTER BRINGING TO LIGHT VOTER REGISTRATION FIGURES FOR THE 1972 ELECTION WHICH TOTALLED OVER 80,000 MEN AND WOMEN OVER 18, HE ALLOWED THAT THE DRAFT LISTS WERE PROBABLY HAPHAZARDLY DONE AND WOULD REQUIRE SUBSTANTIAL UPDATING FOR ANY PROVINCIAL CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN.

3. THE FANK ASSISTANT FOR PERSONNEL REPORTS THAT A TOTAL OF 770 NEW SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN PROCESSED IN BATTAMBANGM WE BELIVE THIS INCLUDES MEN PREVIOUSLY RECRUITED BY MR-3 BUT NOT PROCESSED AT THE TIME ACCORDING TO NEW PROCEDURES.

4. MEASURES TO IMPROVE CONSCRIPTION/RECRUITMENT RESULTS ARE STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION. NO ACTION IS LIKELY, HOWEVER, UNTIL A NEW CABINET HAS BEEN CHOSEN, POSSIBLY IN A WEEK OR SO. KHMER LEADERS ARE ALSO RELUCTANT TO MAKE ANY SERIOUS EFFORT TO APPREHEND DRAFT EVADERS UNTIL THE CURRENT TEACHER'S STRIKE HAS BEEN RESOLVED.
ENDERS

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